

Chief Forester Order
Respecting the AAC Determination for the Mackenzie TSA

Section 8 (3.1) of the *Forest Act* stipulates in part that:

If... the chief forester considers that the allowable annual cut...is not likely to be changed significantly with a new determination, then...the chief forester by written order may postpone the next determination...to a date that is up to 10 years after the date of the relevant last determination, and must give written reasons for the postponement.

In October 2001, I determined a new Allowable Annual Cut (AAC) for the Mackenzie Timber Supply Area (TSA). The current AAC of 3 050 000 cubic metres came into effect on December 1, 2001 and includes a partition of 100 000 cubic metres for deciduous-leading stands.

In considering whether to postpone the next AAC determination for the Mackenzie TSA, I have reviewed:

- each of the factors potentially affecting timber supply on the TSA;
- my previous *Rationale for AAC Determination* dated October 2001;
- the *Mackenzie Timber Supply Area Analysis Report* dated April 2001.

I note that the timber supply forecast reported in the 2001 analysis report indicated that a maximum harvest level of 3 305 000 cubic metres could be maintained indefinitely. In my 2001 rationale, I also discussed the impact and interaction of key factors affecting timber supply in the short, medium and long terms. I have reviewed each factor specified under Section 8 of the *Forest Act* and investigated whether any new information or uncertainty exists concerning each factor.

After thoroughly considering all the available information, I have concluded that there is no specific data that demonstrates an immediate risk to the timber supply within the Mackenzie TSA. Based on my review of the factors discussed in my 2001 rationale, the limited new data available and my knowledge of the timber supply dynamics of this unit, I have determined that the AAC for the Mackenzie would not likely change with a new determination.

Under the authority as outlined in Section 8(3.1) of the *Forest Act*, I hereby postpone the next AAC determination to a date prior to December 1, 2011 which is 10 years since the last determination.

I am aware that there is a significant increase in the Mountain Pine Beetle populations within the Mackenzie TSA. The infestation has expanded in recent years and now encompasses the southern portion of the TSA west of Williston Lake. I note that the current AAC provides sufficient capacity to adequately manage the existing Mountain Pine Beetle infestation. However, if the beetle epidemic continues to expand—or if additional significant new information regarding other factors affecting timber supply is made available to me—I may revisit the next determination sooner than the maximum 10-year period indicated in the legislation.



Larry Pedersen
Chief Forester

June 16/04

Date